

CLIMATE ACTION POLICY

1. Policy Title - Climate Action Policy

2. Policy Number - DU-SU-007 – V1

3. Effective Date - Spring 2023-24

4. Next Review Due - Spring 2027-28

5. Purpose and Need

Climate change poses profound and escalating risks to societies, economies, and natural ecosystems worldwide. As an institution of higher education, Dhofar University recognizes its responsibility to contribute meaningfully to global climate action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate adaptation to environmental changes by systematically integrating sustainability and resilience across its operations in alignment with Oman's climate change policy.

6. Scope

The policy establishes a framework to guide University's response to climate change by acknowledging the urgency to tackle climate-related risks and outlining mechanisms to embed sustainability principles, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, throughout its core functions.

The policy applies to all faculty, staff, students and external stakeholders of the University engaged in academic, administrative or other operational activities.

7. Policy Statement

Provide a framework to combat climate change and its impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions (carbon footprint), enhance resilience to climate-related hazards, create awareness on mitigation and promote sustainability across university operations, in alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 - Climate Action.

8. Procedure

For achieving its climate action goals related to mitigation, adaptation and resilience, the University shall focus on the following:

8.1. Governance and Oversight

- Establish a Climate Change Action Committee to oversee implementation of the policy, monitor progress and report on outcomes.

8.2. Climate Considerations in Decision-Making and Implementation

- Incorporate Climate Considerations in University's Strategic Planning and Decision Making.
- Integrate Sustainability Measures in Investment and Procurement Decisions.
- Encompass Climate Related Risks and Long-Term Resilience in Operational Decisions.

8.3. Partnerships for Sustainability and Climate Change

- Collaborate with local, regional, national, and international organizations to advance climate change actions, sustainability initiatives and knowledge-sharing.

8.4. Awareness, Training and Behavioral Change

- Organize workshops, campaigns, and training sessions for staff and students.
- Encourage sustainable behaviors and practices among University community.

8.5. Incorporate Climate Change into Curriculum, Research Activities, Community Engagement and other University Activities

- Integrate climate change and sustainability themes into academic programs, research initiatives and other co-curricular activities.

8.6. Ensure Resilient Infrastructure and Sustainable Campus Operations

- Apply energy-efficient and climate-resilient designs in University buildings, facilities and campus development projects.
- Monitor and optimize energy, water, transportation, and consumables use in accordance with existing policies.
- Explore the use of alternative energy sources, especially solar power, for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact.

8.7. Promote Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Reduce Emissions

- Promote responsible consumption of natural resources across University operations.
- Implement measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions following best international practices.

9. Guidelines

- 9.1. **Energy:** Transition progressively toward renewable energy sources and energy-efficient technologies. (Refer DU-SU-001)
- 9.2. **Transport:** Encourage public transport, cycling, electric vehicles, and carpooling. (Refer DU-SU-002)
- 9.3. **Net-Zero Emissions:** Support Sultanate of Oman's climate change policy targeting net-zero emissions by 2050, with focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency, de-carbonization and diversification of energy sources.
- 9.4. **Waste:** Implement a “reduce, reuse, recycle” approach across University Campus. (Refer DU-SU-001)
- 9.5. **Community Engagement:** Collaborate with local stakeholders on climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

10. Custodian

Director, Dhofar University Centre for Sustainability (DUCS)

11. Responsibility for Implementation:

DUCS shall coordinate and oversee the implementation of this policy. Relevant University entities are responsible for executing assigned actions, implementing related activities, and providing supporting evidence of compliance.

12. Contact Person for Queries

Director, DUCS

13. Key Stakeholders Consulted

VC, DVC, Deans, CPS Director, Department of Research Director, PG Studies Director, Centre for Sustainability Director, QA Director and QA Consultant.

14. Approval Details

14.1. Approval by University Council (UC)

UC Meeting number: 06/ 2023-2024

Meeting date: 31-03-2024

14.1. Approval by Board of Trustees (If required)

Not Required